

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26th March 2008

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Atkin (Chairman), Councillor Jones (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Farrington, Mrs. Hood and Mrs. Plenderleith.

Labour Group

Councillors Bambrick, Lane and Mrs. Mead.

(Councillor Mrs. Wheeler (Conservative Group) also attended the Meeting and, with the approval of the Chairman, spoke to Minute Nos. OS/47 and OS/49).

OS/46. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 23rd January and 13th February 2008 were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chairman.

OS/47. **BROADBAND – FOLLOW UP FROM DISCUSSION WITH BRITISH TELECOM**

Further to Minute No. OS/42 of 13th February 2008, reference was made to the presentation on broadband availability given by Tom Hamilton, British Telecom's Regional Manager for the East Midlands. Members were concerned that a number of issues remained which had not been addressed, although Mr. Hamilton had offered to provide assistance to the occupiers of any properties in the District, who were unable to receive broadband.

Members discussed the way forward with regard to this issue.

It was agreed:-

- (1) That a draft report be submitted to the next Meeting of this Committee for approval and subsequent submission to the Environmental and Development Services Committee, on the work undertaken to date with regard to the availability of broadband.**
- (2) That, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Officers be authorised to issue a press release, advising the public with any issues relating to broadband availability, to submit them to Council and that any responses received be forwarded to Mr. Hamilton at British Telecom.**
- (3) That a summary report of responses received from the press release be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee.**

OS/48. **FLOODING – CONCLUSION OF REVIEW**

Further to Minute No. OS/43 of 13th February 2008, a report on flooding issues and maintenance of flood defences in the District were circulated at the Meeting. In considering this matter, discussion was undertaken on the following issues:-

- The Council's representation on the Regional Flood Defence Committee.
- Severn Trent Water's role as consultee on planning applications and Section 104 Agreements.
- The availability of grants for the provision of floodgates.
- Funding from DEFRA for combined sewers.
- Emergency planning and neighbouring authority contact details.

Members were requested to consider the draft report and to provide feedback, in order that the report could be finalised.

It was agreed that the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, be authorised to finalise the flooding review report, for submission to the next Meeting of the Environmental and Development Services Committee.

OS/49. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman read a letter received from Julia Jessel, Head of Urgent Care at Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT), concerning the provision of out-of-hours services for the Swadlincote area. The PCT was seeking the Council's support for the revised proposals.

A discussion was undertaken regarding the issue and it was considered that an item could be included in the Committee's future Work Programme.

It was agreed that the matter be referred to the next Meeting of the Housing and Community Services Committee.

Representatives of train service companies and public transport authorities had been invited to attend the next Meeting, to discuss the public transport review, particularly regarding the Willington Station. Confirmation of attendance had been received from representatives of Derbyshire County Council, Cross Country Trains, Derby City Council and Staffordshire County Council. To date, a response had not been received from East Midlands Trains. It was suggested that Richard Groves, the Planning Policy Officer, also be invited to attend the next Meeting. Officers would pursue the survey results regarding the usage of Willington Station, for consideration at the next Meeting.

Members were reminded that at the last Meeting, reference had been made to the Use of Resources Assessment. It was proposed to organise a focus session, to undertake a review of the Scrutiny Committee's operation and to consider the work programme for 2008/09. The Committee discussed potential dates for this session, following the Annual Council Meeting.

It was agreed that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services finalise arrangements for the focus session and confirm these to Members.

It was noted that consideration would need to be given to the Committee's Annual Report. This would need to be finalised for submission to the Annual Council Meeting on 22nd May 2008.

It was agreed that the Head of the Legal and Democratic Services produce a draft Annual Report for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

OS/50. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd January 2008 were received.

N. ATKIN

CHAIRMAN